

ABSTRACT

METHOD FOR ANALYZING DNA FROM A RARE CELL IN A CELL POPULATION

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Methods are provided for analyzing DNA of a rare cell in a cell population. In one embodiment, the method involves covering a cell monolayer with a photosensitive material. By illuminating the area over a cell of interest, the material is solidified, permitting manipulation of the underlying cell and/or protection of the cell from DNA-inactivating agents that destroy DNA in other cells in the monolayer. In another embodiment, the monolayer is overlaid with a solid material that becomes soluble when illuminated. By illuminating the area over a cell of interest, that cell can be specifically exposed and DNA from the cell amplified. The methods are particularly useful for analyzing fetal cells found in maternal blood.

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